

## ***Carex rostrata* Stokes**

beaked sedge

Cyperaceae (Sedge Family)

**Status:** State Sensitive

**Rank:** G5S1

**General Description:** The leaves are strongly papillose on upper surface, involute (edges rolled back), and glaucous (waxy); the widest leaf blades are 1/16 to 1/8 inch wide; the culms are round or very obtusely trigonous (3-angled), and smooth below the inflorescence; long, creeping rhizomes are present.

**Identification Tips:** *Carex rostrata* and *C. utriculata* differ conspicuously in their leaves and flowers spikes. *C. rostrata* leaves are narrow, inrolled, strongly glaucous, and have the stomata on the upper blade surface. Leaf blades of *C. utriculata* are broader, bright green, and have stomata on the lower surface. The fruiting spikes of *C. rostrata* are more slender than those of *C. utriculata*. *C. rostrata* is currently restricted to the NE part of WA, while *C. utriculata* has a much broader distribution.

**Phenology:** Flowers and fruits in July and August.

**Range:** Alaska, most of Canada, and northern portions of the United States. In WA, it is currently restricted to the northeast, in the Okanogan Highlands physiographic province.

**Habitat:** Quaking or floating peat in association with slender sedge (*C. lasiocarpa*) along lake shoreline. Other associated species include mud sedge (*Carex limosa*), bogbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), pink elephants (*Pedicularis groenlandica*), great sundew (*Drosera anglica*), many-spiked cottongrass (*Eriophorum polystachion*), yellow pond lily (*Nuphar polysepalum*) and water horsetail (*Equisetum fluviatile*). Elevation 4500-5000 feet. *C. utriculata* grows in shallow water on firm substrate with water sedge (*C. aquatilis*).

**Ecology:** The species is presumably dependent upon physiographic and hydrologic conditions suitable for maintenance of bog systems. Specific information on the species' ecology is not available.

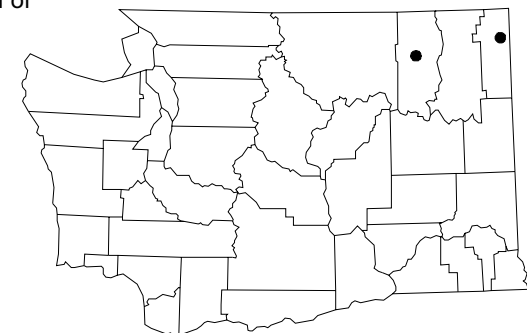
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Line drawing unavailable, Photo by Fred Weinmann.

Known distribution of  
*Carex rostrata*  
in Washington



- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

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beaked sedge



Fred Weinmann



Reid Schuller

***Carex rostrata***

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**State Status Comments:** The species is only known to occur in one bog complex in Pend Oreille County, WA.

**Inventory Needs:** Bog systems in Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille counties should be inventoried for this species.

**Threats and Management Concerns:** Hydrologic alteration of the bog complexes within which the species is found is the primary threat. Because of the mosaic nature of bog vegetation, even a small, localized disturbance could result in a significant loss of habitat and individuals.

**Comments:** The name *Carex rostrata* was misapplied by Hitchcock and Cronquist (1973) and others to *Carex utriculata* Boott. Consult the references identified below for a more complete explanation.

**References:**

Griffiths, G.C.D. 1989. The three *Carex rostrata* (Cyperaceae) in Alberta. Alberta Naturalist 19(3): 105-108.

Kovalchik, B.L., and J. Mastroguseppe. 1991. First record of the real *Carex rostrata* in Washington. Douglasia 15(3): 3-4.

Reznicek, A.A. 1985. What is *Carex rostrata* Stokes? [Abstract] Am. J. Bot. 72: 966.